

# Changing the Narrative



**“I just cite these public opinion polls-- Americans--65% or 70% think we haven’t achieved anything. In Afghanistan, it’s 70% or 80% think we have. How does that happen--that the people who are in the middle of that war think we’ve really done some good, and the people who are 7,000 miles away think we haven’t?”**

***-Senator Carl Levin (Retired)***

***Former Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee***



<u><b>Infrastructure/Communications</b></u>	<b>Taliban: 2001</b>	<b>Now</b>	
Roadways/Paved Roads	18,000km/60km	42,150km/12,350km	
Access to Reliable Electricity	6%	28%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000,000+ Afghans use Facebook</li> <li>• 100% of the country will have cell phone coverage within 3 years</li> </ul>
TV/Radio Stations	None/3	50/150	
Internet Users	None	6,000,000+	
Cell Phone Subscribers	25,000	22,000,000+	
<u><b>Education</b></u>			
Schools	1,000	14,000+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Afghan literacy rate is predicted to reach 90% by 2040</li> </ul>
Teachers	20,000	186,000+	
Students Enrolled in Primary & Secondary Schools % Who Are Females	<900,000 Almost None	8,000,000+ 36%	
Students Enrolled in Universities	UNK	150,000+	
Literacy Rate	12%	39%	

**Sources:** CIA World Fact Book 2014; GIRoA Ministry of Communications & Information Technology; Afghan Central Statistics Organization 2014; World Bank Development Indicators; Afghan Energy Information Center; International Airline Industry Directory; 2014 UNHCR Country Profile-Afghanistan 2014; UNICEF; "Realizing Self-Reliance"-GIRoA Publication: 20 Nov 14

**By almost all metrics, progress in Afghanistan has been significant in the last 13 years; the Coalition and ANSF have provided the necessary security to enable these advancements**



# Societal Fundamentals: Then and Now (2 of 2)

Updated on 3 Mar 15

<u><b>Economy/Politics</b></u>	<b>Taliban: 2001</b>	<b>Now</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Afghan economy continues to grow (albeit unevenly)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2011: 6.1%</li> <li>- 2012: <u>14.4%</u></li> <li>- 2013: 3.7%</li> <li>- 2014: 1.5%</li> <li>- 2015: <u>4.0%</u></li> </ul> </li> <li>Forecast</li> </ul>
Size of Economy	\$4 Billion	\$20.6+ Billion	
GDP (USD per Capita)	\$186.00	\$688.00+	
Access to Clean Water	22%	64%	
Passenger Cars (per 1,000 people)	0.5	20	
Commercial Overflights & Landings (Daily)	None	756	
% of Women in Labor Force	UNK	24.4%	
% of Women in National Parliament	None	28%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health improvements have raised life expectancies by 21+ years</li> <li>• ~35.3 Million Afghans X 21 Years = <u>Gift of &gt;741 Million Years of Life</u></li> </ul>
<u><b>Population/Health</b></u>			
Refugees	>3,500,000	<2,700,000	
Population of Kabul	<500,000	>3.5 Million	
Infant Mortality (Children Dying Before Age 5)	26%	9.7%	
Maternal Mortality (Women Dying from Childbirth)	1.6%	0.33%	
Healthcare Access/Facilities	9%/498	60%/2,507	
<b>Life Expectancy</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>64</b>	

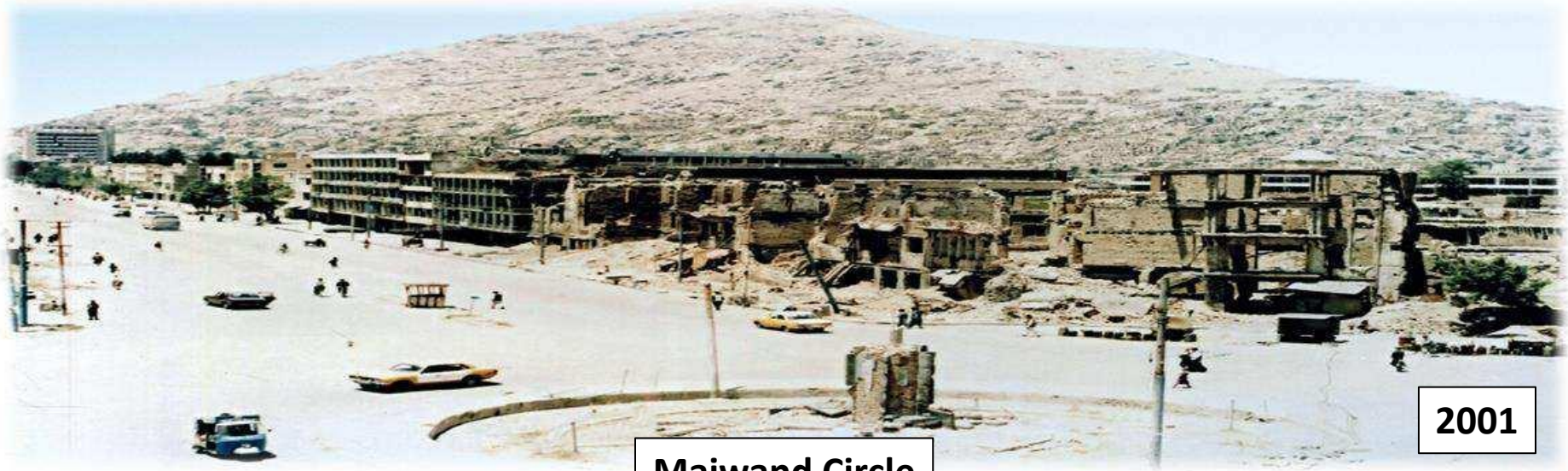
Sources (Continued): Afghanistan Mortality Survey; Ministry of Public Health; UNDP Human Development Index; World Bank; TOLO News Research; USAID Survey; Asia Foundation; MOBY Research; UNICEF

- **77%** of Afghans express confidence in their new government
- **87%** of Afghans approve the political agreement between President Ghani & CE Abdullah
- **78%** of Afghans believe the security situation in their district has improved or remained steady in the last 6 months (since June 2014)
- **81%** of Afghans say their government has more influence in their district than the insurgents do
- **87%** of Afghans express confidence in the Afghan National Army (ANA)
- **59%** of Afghans believe that the ANA is capable of defeating the insurgents
- **76%** of Afghans express confidence in the Afghan National Police (ANP)
- **82%** of Afghans believe that GIRoA is leading the effort to improve security (vs. the Coalition)
- **77%** of Afghans want the Coalition to remain in the country to assist the ANDSF, at least until the Afghan military and police can stand alone
- **<10%** of the Afghan people support the Taliban
  - **<30%** of Afghans in Kandahar Province (the heartland of the Taliban) support the insurgents
  - **<2%** of Afghan women desire a return to Taliban rule
- **64%** of Afghans believe that it is unlikely that the Taliban will return to power
- **55%** of Afghans believe that their country is heading in the right direction

Sources: Agence France-Presse; BBC; NBC ; ABC; Asia Foundation-Afghan Survey 2014; Afghan Ministry of Communications Internal Report; MOBY Research; Afghanistan Nationwide Quarterly Assessment Research (ANQAR) Survey Report, Wave 26; Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR)

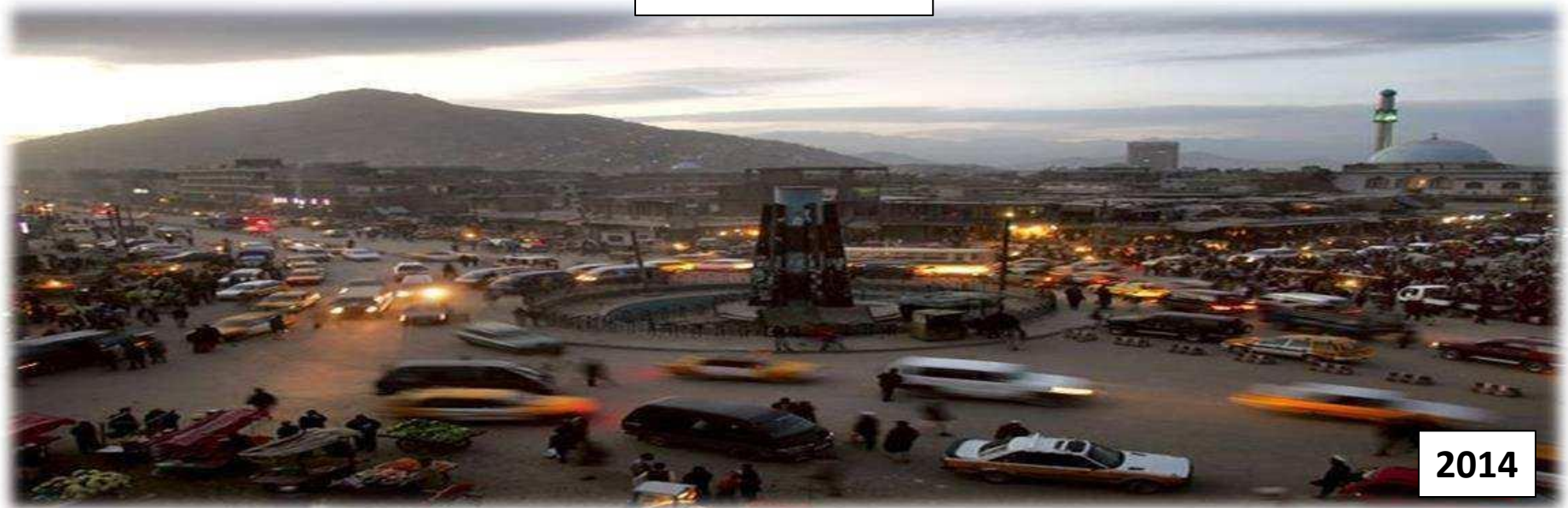
**In general, Afghans are far more optimistic about their country's future than outsiders are.**

# Kabul: Then and Now



Maiwand Circle

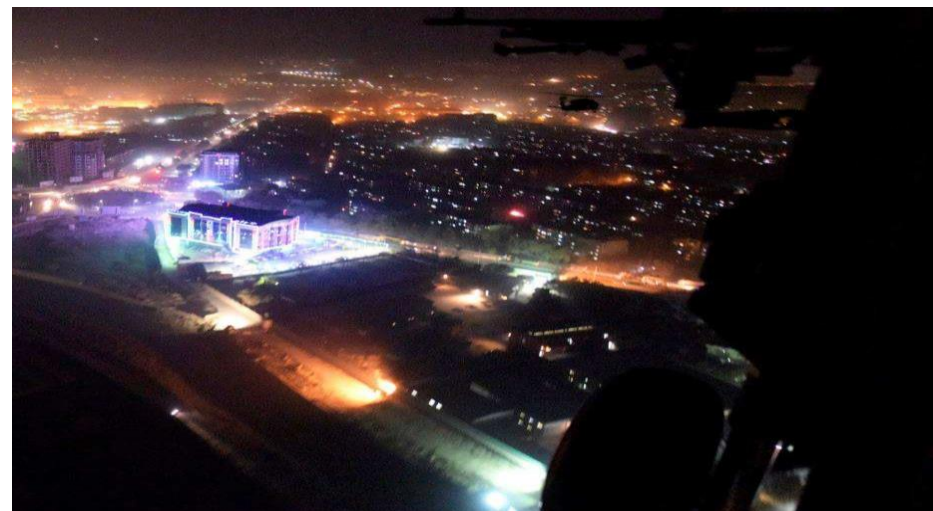
2001



2014



# Present-Day Kabul at Night



Kabul ranks as the *fifth fastest growing city in the world*. Under Taliban rule, the capital's population dwindled to fewer than 500,000. Today, Kabul's population exceeds 3,500,000. The United Nations (UN) projects that Kabul's population will reach 7,000,000 by 2025.